Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 069601

71
ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

PRS-01 SP-03 USIE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 IO-14 AF-10

EUR-25 DRC-01 /122 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:ESWALKER:DF
APPROVED BY NEA - RODGER P. DAVIES
NEA/IAI - HHSTACKHOUSE
S/S - WHLUERS
NEA - ALATHERTON, JR.
---------- 109237
O 052230Z APR 74 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL ACAPULCO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069601

TOSEC 140

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAELI GOVERNMENT CRISIS POSSIBLE AS RESULT OF AGRANAT REPORT

SUMMARY. PRELIMINARY AGRANAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON ISRAELI MISTAKES IN PRE-WAR PERIOD WHICH DEALT SEVERELY WITH CHIEF OF STAFF WHILE EXONERATING POLITICAL LEADERSHIP, HAS ARROUSED WIDE-SPREAD ISRAELI CRITICISM THAT POLITICIANS, AND PARTICULARLY DEFMIN DAYAN, MUST ALSO BEAR RESPONSI-BILITY. REPORT WILL BE DEBATED IN SPECIAL APRIL 11 KNESSET SESSION AND OPPOSITION LIKUD WILL INTRODUCE MOTION OF NO CONFIDENCE. NRP MIGHT JOIN LIKUD IN CALL ON GOVERN-MENT TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR IDF FAILURES AND IF SO, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 069601

PRIMIN MEIR'S GOVERNMENT WILL BE IN JEOPARDY. GIVEN HIGH

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

STATE OF TENSION ON SYRIAN FRONT AND GENERAL DISTASTE FOR YET ANOTHER PERIOD OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY, OUR ESTIMATE NOW IS THAT GOVERNMENT WILL WIN CONFIDENCE VOTE. BUT EVEN IF GOI SUCCEEDS APRIL 11 IN VOTE STRONG PRESSURE WILL CONTINUE FOR RESIGNATION OF DEFMIN DAYAN WHICH COULD LEAD TO PERIOD OF INCREASING INSTABILITY AND RENEWED CRISIS.

1. APRIL 2 PRELIMINARY AGRANAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON FAILURES IN ISRAELI COMMAND STRUCTURE IN PERIOD IMMEDIATELY PRECEEDING OCTOBER WAR WILL BE FOCUS OF SPECIAL APRIL 11 KNESSET SESSION. GOVERNMENT CALLED SPECIAL SESSION DURING PASSOVER RECESS TO PRESENT STATEMENT

ON REPORT. OPPOSITION LIKUD WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SESSION TO INTRODUCE MOTION OF NO CONFIDENCE. LIKUD IS CLAIMING GOVERNMENT MUST DRAW APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS FROM REPORT AND RESIGN.

2. LIKUD HAS REPORTEDLY FOUND ALLY IN NRP KNESSET FACTION WHICH APRIL 4 CALLED ON GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FAILURES IN IDF AND RESIGN. NRP WILL NOT MAKE ITS FINAL DECISION ON ITS KNESSET VOTE UNTIL APRIL 8, BUT THERE IS POSSIBILITY PARTY MIGHT USE AGRANAT REPORT AS EXCUSE FOR LEAVING GOVERNMENT IN ATTEMPT TO HEAL SERIOUS INTERNAL PARTY BREACH CAUSED BY DECISION TO JOIN GOVERNMENT IN FACE OF CHIEF RABBINATE OPPOSITION. THOUGH UNITED LABOR ALIGNMENT COULD PROBABLY STAVE OFF THREAT TO GOVERNMENT, ALIGNMENT IS FAR FROM UNITED ON THIS ISSUE.

3. INTERIM REPORT DEALT SEVERELY WITH CHIEF OF STAFF ELAZAR WHO CONTESTED FINDINGS IN IS LETTER OF RESIGNATION. ON OTHER HAND, REPORT FULLY EXONERATED PRIMIN MEIR AND FOUND THAT DEFMIN WAS NOT OBLIGED TO DO OTHER THAN HE DID IN PRE-WAR PERIOD. DAYAN SUPPORTERS READING THIS AS FULL EXONERATION OF DEFMIN AND CLAIM SUBJECT NOW CLOSED. BUT FORMER COS ELAZAR IN RESIGNATION LETTER CONTENDED THAT DEFMIN WAS HIGHEST OPERATIONAL AUTHORITY IN PRE-WAR PERIOD AND HAD ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO COS. ELAZAR ASKED WHY UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES COS SHOULD CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 069601

HAVE REACHED CONCLUSIO,S WHICH DEFMIN WAS UNABLE TO REACH. ELAZAR CONCLUDED THAT COMMITTEE DID NOT TREAT COS AND DEFMIN EQUALLY. MOST ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS AGREE WITH THRUST OF ELAZAR'S COMMENTS AND CALL FOR CLOSER SCRUTINY OF DAYAN'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

4. WITH DAYAN UNDER ATTACK FROM ALL SIDES, HIS STRONG INTERNAL OPPOSITION IN LABOR PARTY IS RELIEVED OF

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

PREVIOUSLY EXISTING CONSTRAINT THAT HE COULD TAKE HIS RAFI FACTION OUT OF LABOR ALIGNMENT AND GO IT ALONE OR JOIN RIGHT-WING OPPOSITION. RAFI SUPPORTERS ARE UNLIKELY TO FOLLOW A DISCREDITED DAYAN INTO POLITICAL LIMBO, AND HE COULD HARDLY JOIN LIKUD WHICH IS IMPLICITLY ATTACKING HIM PERSONALLY. THUS, LONG KNIVES ARE ONCE AGAIN OUT FOR DAYAN AND HIS FUTURE DEPENDS INCREASINGLY ON PRIMIN'S SUPPORT.

5. THOUGH PRIMIN'S PERSONAL POSITION WAS PRESUMABLY STRENGTHENED BY AGRANAT COMMITTEE REPORT, SHE MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO DEFEND DAYAN WITHIN ALIGNMENT AND STILL HOLD PARTY COMPLETELY TOGETHER ON NO CONFIDENCE MOTION. NOR CAN SHE COUNT ON SUPPORT OF LEFT-WING SPLINTER

PARTIES IN KNESSET. SACRIFICE OF DAYAN BEFORE CONFIDENCE VOTE, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO HAVE SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT ON POSSIBLE NRP DECISION TO VOTE AGAINST GOI WHICH, IF MADE, WOULD BE FOR INTERNAL PARTY REASONS. ALSO, RAFI MEMBERS WILL EXPECT LABOR PARTY TO PUT UP FIGHT FOR DAYAN WHATEVER THEIR FINAL POSITION ON STAYING IN LABOR PARTY MIGHT BE IF DAYAN WERE ULTIMATELY DUMPED. DAYAN, FOR HIS PART, HAS SAID CATEGORICALLY HE WILL NOT RESIGN.

6. HIGH TENSION ON SYRIAN FRONT WILL WORK TO MRS. MEIR'S ADVANTAGE IN CONVINCING HER COLLEAGUES THAT ISRAEL CANNOT AFFORD POLITICAL INSTABILITY NOW. THIS MAY GIVE PRIMIN EDGE SHE NEEDS TO RETAIN CONFIDENCE OF KNESSET. BUT SHE WILL STILL FACE SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO DAYAN FROM WITHIN LABOR PARTY WHICH COULD LEAD TO RENEWED CRISIS. IF SHE SHOULD LOSE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, MRS. MEIR WOULD BE OBVIOUS CHOICE TO TRY AND FORM NEW GOVERNMENT. BUT SUCH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 069601

A BLOW COULD ALSO CAUSE HER DEFINITIVELY TO STEP DOWN. GIVEN THE DISARRAY IN THE LABOR PARTY A PERIOD OF HIGH POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY AND INSTABILITY WOULD THEN ENSUE AS PARTY SOUGHT SUCCESSOR AND TRIED TO FORM NEW GOVERN-MENT OR CALLED FOR NEW ELECTIONS.

7. OUR ESTIMATE NOW IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL WIN CONFIDENCE VOTE BECAUSE OF EFFECTS OF CONCERN OVER SYRIAN FRONT AND GENERAL PUBLIC DISTASTE FOR NEW ELECTIONS OR FOR ANOTHER PROTRACTED PERIOD OF GOVERN-MENT FORMATION HAGGLING. BUT ESTIMATE IS MADE WITH CONSIDERABLE RESERVE; THIS IS TIME OF UNIQUE TURBULENCE AND HIGH EMOTION ON ISRAELI POLITICAL SCENE.

8. FOREGOING DRAFTED PRIOR TO RECEIPT TEL AVIV 2030 WHICH

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

WE ARE REPEATING TOSEC SINCE WE THINK YOU WILL FIND IT
USEFUL TO HAVE THESE INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENTS FROM TEL
AVIV AND WASHINGTON PERSPECTIVES.

RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, TOSEC 140
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE069601
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ESWALKER:DF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740077-0910
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740463/aaaacgdg.tel
Line Count: 174
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI GOVERNMENT CRISIS POSSIBLE AS RESULT OF AGRANAT REPORT
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, IS, AGRANAT COMMITTEE
To: ACAPULCO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005